UNITED
NATIONS

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United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/1251
7 March 1990

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirty-sixth session
Second part
Geneva, 12 March 1990
Items 2 and 3 of the provisional agenda

FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT OF UNCTAD VII IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD DECISION 350 (XXXIV): SELECTED ISSUES REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE BOARD

SERVICES WITHIN THE MANDATE OF UNCTAD AS DEFINED IN THE FINAL ACT

PROTECTIONISM AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT AND, IN CONJUNCTION THEREWITH, DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 105 (8) OF THE FINAL ACT

Communication dated 6 March 1990 received from the
Permanent Representative of Nigeria
to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

At the request of the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations Office in Geneva, the following communication addressed to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77, and its attachment, is being circulated to members of the Board under items 2 and 3 of the provisional agenda.

GE.90-50544

best copy available

THE GROUP OF 77

GENEVA

Tuesday 6 March 1990

Mr. K.K.S. DADZIE
Secretary-General of UNCTAD
Palais des Nations, Geneva

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to inform you that the Informal Group of Developing Countries met on 22-23 February 1990 to assess the state of play in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

As a result of that assessment, the Group unanimously approved the attached statement. The statement is relevant to the discussions of the various aspects of Trade on the agenda of this Spring Session of the Board.

I wish to request on behalf of the Group of 77 that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Second part of the Thirty-six session of the Trade and Development Board.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ambassador Emeka Ayo AZIKIWE
(Nigeria)
Chairman of the Group of 77 (Geneva)

STATEMENT BY THE INFORMAL GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Informal Group of Developing Countries met on 22-23 February 1990 to assess the state of play in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

As a result of this assessment, the Group unanimously approved the following statement:

1. The decision to launch the Uruguay Round was taken when the multilateral trading system was at a critical stage characterised by:

(a) the prevalence of protectionist and distorting policies resulting in serious macro and micro-economic imbalances and a growing erosion of the benefits arising from the international trading system, to the developing-country participants;

(b) an evolving transformation of the international economy signifying a growing inter-dependence inter-alia through expansion in new areas of international trade; and

(c) the adverse effect of protectionism on the ability of indebted countries to promote their trade and development and meet their financial obligations.

2. The developing countries gave their backing to the Uruguay Round because they were convinced that it represented an opportunity to secure a fair and equitable and a more open, truly multilateral trading system, as a means of promoting the economic growth of all participants and the development of less developed participants. They sought and obtained a political commitment for a balanced outcome of the results and for an operational reflection of their development needs and concerns in these results. It is only on this basis that a balanced expansion in the rights, obligations and indeed benefits of all participants can be achieved.

3. On the basis of the above premises, developing-country participants have been negotiating in the Uruguay Round constructively and in good faith; they are prepared to continue to do so in the coming months in order to contribute to the success of the Round. However, after assessing the state of the negotiations, developing-country participants note with deep concern the current lack of balance in the negotiations, which stems from a

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failure by many developed-country participants to engage meaningfully in the traditional areas while at the same time pressing for cross-linkages to and far-reaching results in the new areas.

4. Such imbalances are evident in the prevailing position in market access groups, especially Tropical Products and Natural Resource-Based Products where procedures have been substituted for substance; in the apparent lack of political will fully to integrate textiles and agriculture within GATT disciplines; in proposals to introduce selective safeguards as a permanent feature of the system and thereby weakening the fundamental principle of the GATT and to enlarge the scope of anti-dumping and countervailing duty rules for protectionist purposes. Furthermore, imbalances are also manifest in proposals and initiatives advanced in various negotiating groups which aim at depriving developing countries of their rights under the GATT, and at imposing obligations in disregard of their special needs and conditions, including those of least-developed countries in contravention of the commitment undertaken at Punta del Este for a balanced outcome of the negotiations. The present attitude has the potential to undermine the essential interests of developing-country participants in the Round and is thus unacceptable to them. Consequently it should be pointed out, now, while there is still time to adopt the necessary corrective measures, that if this situation persists it will seriously jeopardize the Uruguay Round.

5. In his recent visit to the GATT, the President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, stated the principles that should guide the negotiation process in the remainder of the Uruguay Round. He called for the abolition of selective measures, the full inclusion of textiles and agriculture in the general rules of the GATT, the opening up of markets, the improvement of anti-dumping and countervailing provisions so as to avoid unilateral measures of harassment to exporters, the submission of all contracting parties to the dispute settlement mechanism and their acceptance of and compliance with recommendations adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES and the incorporation of the development dimension as an integral element of the multilateral system.

6. Developing-country participants are convinced that after three years of negotiations the time for political decisions has arrived and that these must become manifest without further delay. The Trade Negotiations Committee in its April and July meetings, will have to produce a balanced overall package that will be the basis of the evaluation procedure for developing countries established in the Punta del Este Declaration which, if found acceptable, could be finalized in the Brussels Ministerial meeting planned for December.

7. In conclusion, the Group of developing countries, while reaffirming their commitment to the Punta del Este Declaration, urge all participants to recognize the gravity of the present situation and to negotiate with renewed intent to implement the Punta del Este Declaration and the Mid-Term Review Agreement in their entirety.

UNITED
NATIONS

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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/1252
8 March 1990

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Sixteenth special session
Geneva, 8 March 1990
Agenda item 1 (a)

AGENDA*/

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session;

   (b) Adoption of the report on credentials

2. Compensatory financing of export earnings shortfalls: report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts convened pursuant to Board decision 317 (S-XIV)

3 Other business

4. Adoption of the report of the Board.

*/ Adopted by the Board at its 763rd meeting on 8 March 1990

GE.90-50578

UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/1253
12 March 1990

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirty-sixth session
Second part
Geneva, 12 March 1990
Agenda item 1 (a)

AGENDA[1/]

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session;

   (b) Adoption of the report on credentials;

   (c) Provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-seventh regular session of the Board and organization of the work of the session;

   (d) Designation of the President of the thirty-seventh regular session of the Board

2. Follow-up and review of the implementation of the Final Act of UNCTAD VII in accordance with Board decision 350 (XXXIV): selected issues requiring attention by the Board

   Services within the mandate of UNCTAD as defined in the Final Act[2/]

3. Protectionism and structural adjustment and, in conjunction therewith, developments and issues in the Uruguay Round of particular concern to developing countries, in accordance with paragraph 105 (8) of the Final Act

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1/ Adopted by the Board at its 766th meeting on 12 March 1990.

2/ For statements made in connection with the adoption of the Final Act of UNCTAD VII, see Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Seventh session, Vol.I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.88.II.D.1), part one B and part two.

GE.90-50636

4. Other issues for consideration by the Board as mandated in General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), and in the context of the relevant provisions of the Final Act on international trade, as well as other pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Conference:

   (a) The impact of technological change on patterns of international trade;

   (b) The implications of bilateral arrangements and regional economic integration, especially those which have a major impact on global trade, in particular on the trade and development of developing countries

5. Trade relations among countries having different economic and social systems and all trade flows resulting therefrom

6. Arrangements and preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

7. Other matters in the field of trade and development

8. Other matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies:

   (a) Restrictive Business Practices;

   (b) Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget;

   (c) Manufactures;

   (d) Future meetings on iron ore

9. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections;

   (b) Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board and election to membership of main Committees;

   (c) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

   (d) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure;

   (e) Review of the calendar of meetings;

   (f) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

10. Other business

11. Adoption of the report of the Board.

UNITED
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United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/1254
14 March 1990

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirty-sixth session
Second part
Geneva, 12 March 1990
Agenda item 1 (b)

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON CREDENTIALS

Communication dated 13 March 1990 received from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

At the request of the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations Office in Geneva, the following communication addressed to the President of the Trade and Development Board is being circulated as an official document of the Board under item 1 (b) of the agenda.

GE.90-50676/5723A

REPUBLIC OF CUBA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA
AND THE OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SWITZERLAND

Geneva, 13 March 1990

RS-210

Sir,

I have the honour to address myself to Your Excellency, on the instructions of my Government, to inform you of Cuba's reservations regarding the credentials presented by an alleged Government of Panama to Mr. K.K.S. Dadzie, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, accrediting a delegation to the sixteenth special session and the thirty-sixth session (second part) of the Trade and Development Board.

As is well-known, since the military invasion of Panama by the United States armed forces, power in that country rests with the chief of the Southern Command of the United States and not with the self-styled Panamanian Government. Consequently, my Government does not recognize the alleged Panamanian authorities or the persons claiming to represent Panama here without any legitimate mandate and wishes to place this fact on record.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as an official document of the Trade and Development Board, in connection with the credentials of the delegations to these sessions, in order that, when the Bureau meets in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board to examine the credentials of the representatives of the members participating in the sixteenth special session and the second part of the thirty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board, it may take cognizance of the Cuban reservation and include it in the report on credentials.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) José Péréz Novoa
Ambassador

Mr. Oscar R. de Rojas
President of the Trade and Development Board
at its thirty-sixth session
Geneva

cc Mr. K.K.S. Dadzie
Secretary-General
UNCTAD
Geneva

UNITED
NATIONS

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United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/1255
21 March 1990

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Sixteenth special session
Geneva, 8 March 1990, and
Thirty-sixth session, second part
Geneva, 12 March 1990
Agenda item 1(b)

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON CREDENTIALS

Report of the Bureau

1. The Bureau met on 21 March 1990, in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, to examine the credentials of the representatives of members participating in the sixteenth special session and in the second part of the thirty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board. A communication addressed to the President of the Trade and Development Board by the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations Office in Geneva was circulated to the Board under item 1(b) of its agenda (TD/B/1254).

2. The UNCTAD secretariat informed the Bureau that credentials, as provided for in rule 17 of the rules of procedure, had been received for all representatives participating in the sixteenth special session and in the second part of the thirty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board.

3. The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation wished to make clear that the United States remained deeply concerned about the situation in Afghanistan and that, in not pressing an objection concerning the representative of Afghanistan, the United States should in no way be considered as accepting the régime in Kabul as legitimate or representative of the Afghan people. In any event, the United States considered credentials issues to be a technical matter.

4. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reiterated the position of his country in respect of the credentials of the representative of Afghanistan as reflected in the report of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session (A/44/639).

GE.90-50823/5810A

5. The President proposed that the Bureau should accept the credentials of all representatives participating in the sixteenth special session and the second part of the thirty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board.

6. The Bureau, taking note of the statements made, found the credentials of the representatives participating in the sixteenth special session and the second part of the thirty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board to be in good order.